



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**OVERTON, JESSE MAXWELL**  
**(1863–1922)**  
**PAPERS**  
**1896-1981**

**(THS Collection)**

*Processed by:*

Harry A. Stokes  
Archival Technical Services

Accession Number: THS 463  
Date Completed: February 9, 1988  
Location: THS II-B-4  
Microfilm Accession Number: 1182

**MICROFILMED**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Jesse Maxwell Overton Papers, 1896–1981, are centered around Jesse Maxwell Overton (1862–1922), businessman, stock breeder, civic leader and his wife Saidee Williams Overton (1872–1963), civic and cultural leader, of Nashville, Tennessee. The Jesse Maxwell Overton Papers are a gift of Mrs. Robert J. Warner, Jr., Nashville, Tennessee.

The materials in this collection measure .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Jesse Maxwell Overton Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Jesse Maxwell Overton Papers, containing approximately forty items, cover the period 1896–1981. The collection is composed of a cartoon, clippings, correspondence, genealogical data, obituaries, photographs, printed materials, a guest register, sketches, and tributes.

The cartoon is of Jesse Maxwell Overton (1863–1922) and depicts him as a coal and iron company owner and as a stock farm breeder.

Clippings are restricted to Saidee Williams Overton (1872–1963) and her various social and cultural activities.

Correspondence consists of two letters of condolence to Mrs. Overton at the time of the unexpected death of her husband.

Photographs include several views of “Overton Hall” and one panoramic scene of the farm building of the Overton estate.

The guest register at Overton Hall covers the years 1905 – 1925. It contains the signatures of prominent Nashvillians as well as national figures of that period including Jacob M. Dickinson, John Jacob Astor, Cornelius Vanderbilt, E. B. Stahlman, Charles W. Eliot, William C. Gorgas, George W. Goethals, Joseph Warner, William B. Campbell, Walter Stokes, Percy Warner, Albert Gleaves, and Thomas F. Gailor.

“What’s in The Name – Crieve Hall” is a brief historical sketch of Overton hall, which was renamed by its second owners “Crieve Hall.”

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

### **Jesse Maxwell Overton**

- 1863            July 25, born in Giles County, Tennessee, the son of John and Harriet Maxwell Overton
- Educated in elementary and secondary schools in Pulaski, Tennessee
- 1879–1882    Attended Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
- 1886            Graduated from Harvard University with degree of Bachelor of Arts
- 1891            November 10, married Saidee Williams, daughter of John P. and Elizabeth Cheney Williams
- 1900            Built “Overton Hall” on the original Travellers’ Rest estate south of Nashville; operated “Overton Hall” farm, famous for the breeding of Berkshire hogs and Jersey cattle
- Organized the Bon Air Coal Company and later merged it with the Buffalo Iron Company into the Bon Air Coal and Iron Company
- 1922            Organized and managed the Alabama Fuel and Iron Company
- 1922            December 16, died in Nashville, Tennessee and interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery

### **Organizations:**

Board of Trust, Vanderbilt University  
Fourth and First National Bank – Director  
Masonic Order – 32<sup>nd</sup> degree Mason  
Nashville Chamber of Commerce – Bd. of Governors and Vice – President  
State and National Forestry Association

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Microfilm Roll #1**

---

#### **Box 1**

1. Cartoons – J. M. Overton
2. Clippings – “Coffee Turns to Arts and Flowers” (Cheekwood and Crieve Hall), Feb. 8, 1976
3. Clippings – Horticulture Society of Davidson Co., Feb. 15, 1981
4. Clippings – Overton, Saidee Williams
5. Clippings – “Society News of Nashville...,” Mar. 27, 1921
6. Clippings – Woman’s Auxiliary of American Legion, etc., 1896 & n.d.
7. Correspondence – Kirkland, J. H. and Robinou (?), Dolby
8. Genealogical data – Williams, John P. family
9. Invitations – 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mrs. Jesse M. Overton, 1962
10. Obituaries – Overton, Jesse M., 1863 - 1922
11. Obituaries – Overton, Saidee Williams, 1872 - 1963
12. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Hill, Louise (Sneed)
13. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Overton, Jesse M. with daughter
14. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Overton, Jesse M. and Saidee (Williams) (5)
15. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Overton, Saidee Williams (4)
16. Photographs, drawings, etc. – “Overton Hall” (3)
17. Photographs, drawings, etc. – “Overton Hall” farm bldgs. (3)
18. Photographs, drawings, etc. – “Overton Hall” party
19. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Robinson, Harriet Virginia Maxwell (Overton)
20. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Williams, John P. residence, Nashville
21. Printed materials – “The Overtons of Long Mountain” – Warren Co. Historical Journal, 1973
22. Registers – Guest – “Overton Hall” – 1905 - 25
23. Sketches – “What’s in The Name – Crieve Hall”
24. Sketches – J. M. Overton – Harvard College, Class Secretary’s Report, 1936
25. Tributes – Overton, Jesse M.
26. Tributes – Overton, Saidee Williams

#### **THS Map Drawer No. 1**

Photographs, drawings, etc. – “Panorama of Overton Hall Farm Buildings”